

GABILIS SPEECH 3 MAY 45 CAMP MURPHY

LIEUT.-COL. JALANDONI AND COMRADES-IN-ARMS:

I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU MARCH LIKE REAL SOLDIERS. I SEE THAT YOU WEAR YOUR UNIFORMS WITH HONOR AND DISTINCTION. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF THAT UNIFORM BECAUSE IT IS THE UNIFORM OF A GREAT ARMY.

WE ARE REORGANIZING HERE THE PHILIPPINE ARMY, AND IN ORDER TO MAKE THAT ARMY A BLAMELESS GROUP OF MEN AND OFFICERS, WE HAVE PROMULGATED GENERAL ORDERS NO. 20. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT SOME OF YOU WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THAT ORDER.

I AM TOLD THAT A RUMOR IS BEING SPREAD AROUND TO THE EFFECT THAT GENERAL MACARTHUR HAS REVOKED GENERAL ORDERS NO. 20. NOTHING CAN BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH. I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT THIS ORDER HAS THE SANCTION OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT AND OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE USAFFE. I HAVE BEEN THREATENED BECAUSE OF THIS ORDER, BUT I WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED INTO CHANGING IT. AS LONG AS I REMAIN THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, GENERAL ORDERS NO. 20 WILL BE ENFORCED REGARDLESS OF WHOEVER MAY BE AFFECTED. IT WILL NOT BE ENFORCED ONLY WHEN I HAVE CEASED TO BE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND I WILL NOT SERVE ONE MINUTE LONGER IF I KNOW THAT THIS POLICY IS NOT BE ENFORCED.

I HAVE HEARD THAT THERE ARE MUMBLINGS AND GRUMBBLINGS IN THIS CAMP REGARDING GENERAL ORDERS NO. 20. IF YOU ARE SOLDIERS YOU MUST LEARN HOW TO OBEY ORDERS AND ACT LIKE MEN, AND NOT LIKE PROSTITUTES WAGGING

YOUR TONGUES. IF I HAD SURRENDERED I MIGHT ALSO HAVE WORKED FOR THE JAPANESE UNDER DURESS LIKE MANY OF YOU. BUT IF I DID THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE THE COURAGE TO ASK TO BE TAKEN BACK INTO THE PHILIPPINE ARMY.

YOUR REMOVAL FROM THE ARMY BY THE LOYALTY STATUS BOARD DOES NOT BRAND YOU AS DISLOYAL. IT SIMPLY MEANS THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO SEEK A MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD ELSEWHERE. THERE ARE OTHER LINES OF ENDEAVOR WHERE A MAN CAN SERVE HIS COUNTRY. A CAMINERO CAN BE AS PATRIOTIC AS ANY MEMBER OF THE CABINET. SO, IF YOU FALL UNDER GENERAL ORDERS NO. 20, GET OUT! AND GIVE WAY TO OTHERS WHO HAVE PROVED THEIR LOYALTY BY DEFYING THE ENEMY.

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO DEFEND YOURSELVES. RESERVE OFFICERS WILL BE REVERTED INTO INACTIVE STATUS, WHILE REGULAR OFFICERS WILL BE ASKED TO RESIGN OR FACE COURT-MARTIAL. THIS IS A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY AND THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES DUE PROCESS OF LAW TO EVERY MAN.

I DARE YOU TO ACT LIKE MEN. I DARE YOU TO GET OUT OF THE ARMY IF YOU FALL UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF GENERAL ORDERS NO. 20. I DARE YOU TO ACT LIKE SOLDIERS.

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